

# **Kentucky Environmental Education Non-formal Certification Task Force**

**January 26, 2005  
Holiday Inn Frankfort, KY  
1:00-4:00PM  
Meeting Notes**

Approved motions listed below

## **Time Structure**

- The certification program should begin Thursday evening and run through Saturday evening in future years.
- Dates, times, and structure for the course are non-negotiable.

## **Content**

- The course material is at an appropriate level of difficulty
- Readings: Group interaction should occur between the students to discuss what they have read. Technology like blackboard may be considered to help facilitate group interaction.
- Content should be included that specifically deals with urban environments
- Students should be introduced to the idea of completing a unit of study at the beginning of the of the certification program. Information and guidance about the unit should be woven throughout the program.
- More recent readings should be added (substituted) to the readings course at the instructors' discretion. In addition, students should have the opportunity to choose a few of their readings from a list suggested by both instructors and members of previous classes.
- Specific content should included on the best way to teach adult audiences.
- Projects WILD, Learning Tree, and WET books should not be given out at future certification programs. The instructors should identify activities covered in each book and students should be given information about Project workshops occurring throughout the year.
- More guidance on class management should be added to the instructional strategies workshop.
- The program should incorporate more material on the "take action" component of EE.
- More opportunities should be provided to learn about Kentucky's unique environments. Perhaps during evening hours.

## **Requirements**

- Attendance is mandatory: Students may miss up to one weekend and still be able to complete the certification course by completing additional assignments related to the content of the workshop. Students who miss more than one weekend must wait until the next year to make up that weekend and then graduate with that year's class.
- With the exception of the original instructors, only people who have participated in and completed the certification program will be considered as instructors in future programs.
- The programs should provide more structured opportunities for participants to learn about each other's program. For example, a portion of the class could be invited to set up displays at each workshop and have time to talk briefly about their programs. A chat room could also be set up for people to interact
- Mentors should be made available to students. Guidelines for mentors should be developed. Mentoring should be voluntary. Efforts should be made to give each participant two mentors.
- Students that begin the program should be given three years to complete all certification requirements. If a student does not complete all requirements within three years, he or she should have to re-enroll in the program.
- Printed guidelines for how the course may be taken for college credit should be passed out at the first workshop (or before)

## **Assessment**

- More time is needed for the literacy assessment – at 2.5 hours including group study time.
- The debate should remain in the same format with the same time requirements. However, a timekeeper should insure that each participant has an equal opportunity to speak.
- Students should be introduced to the idea of completing a unit of study at the beginning of the certification program. Information and guidance about the unit should be woven throughout the program.

## **Venue**

- Urban settings and activities relating to urban areas should be considered and woven into future certification curriculum
- State parks are an excellent venue for the workshops. Efforts should be made to provide more time/activities to explore each park and the EE opportunities there.
- The retreat setting of the workshops is very important to the success of the program and should be continued.